



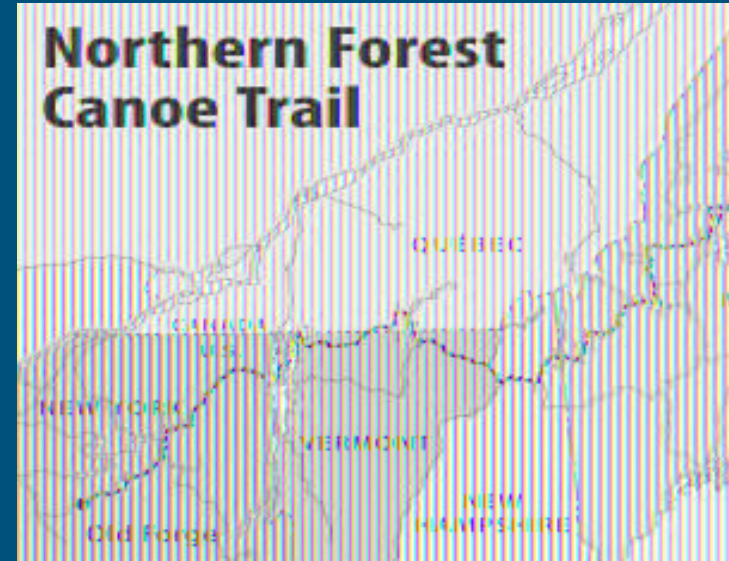
Marble Mill Paddlers' Campsite Proposal

By Alex Delhagen, Assistant Trail Director,
Northern Forest Canoe Trail



The Northern Forest Canoe Trail

- 740 mile long paddling trail spanning from Old Forge, NY to Fort Kent, ME
 - Maintain and improve paddling infrastructure along the trail
 - 9-week summer stewardship season
- Mission: connect people to the region's waterways, heritage, and contemporary communities by stewarding and providing access to canoe and kayak experiences along the route.



Our Work: Water Access



Campsites



Restoration



Docks



Portage Trails

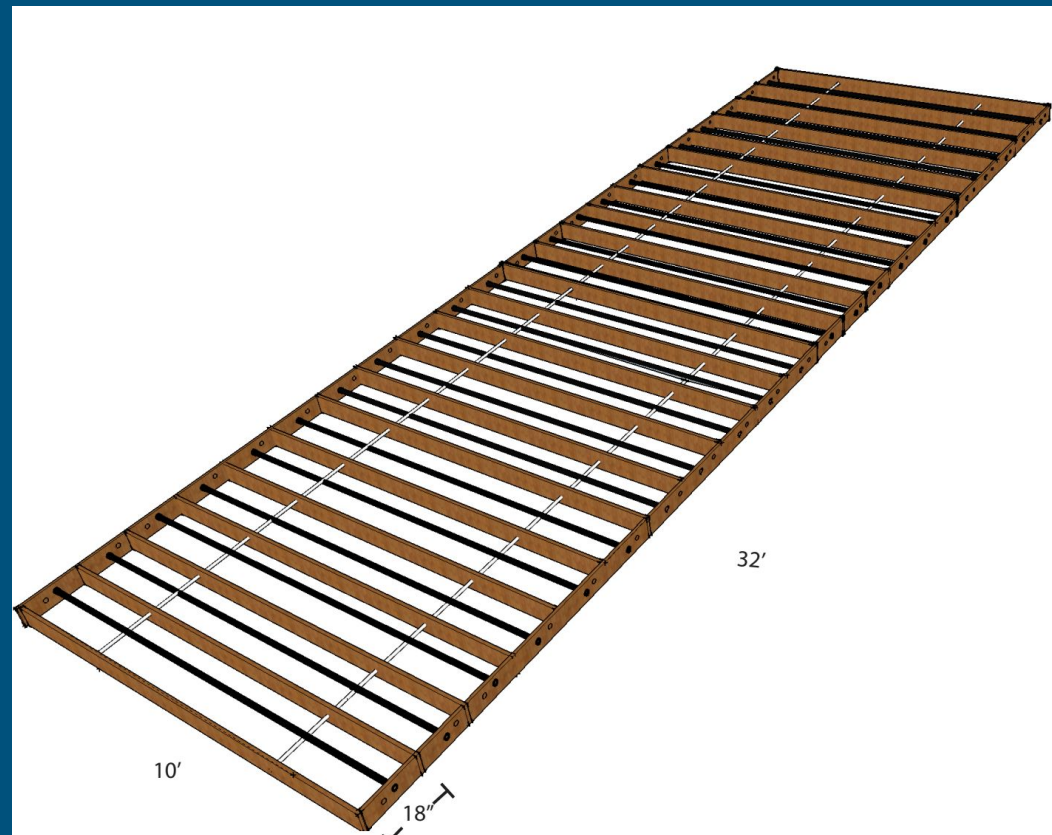
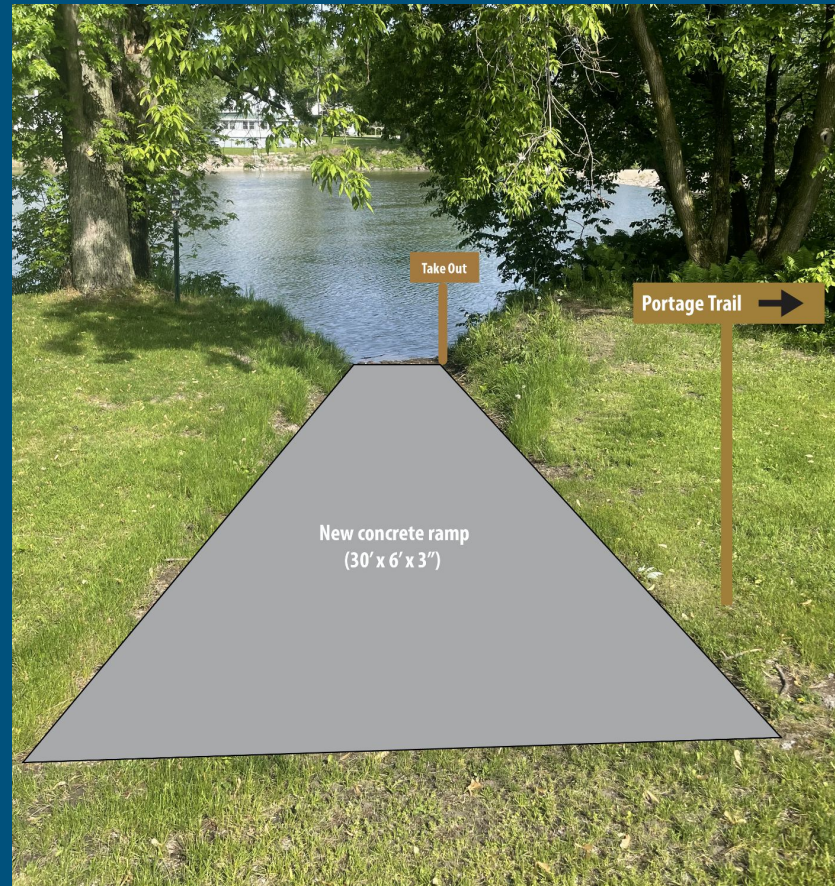


Marble Mill Park

- Strategic point along NFCT in Vermont
 - Access to amenities
 - Few campsites along this stretch of trail
- Existing paddling infrastructure
 - Ramps at take-out and put-in
 - Portage trail around dam
- Opportunity to improve infrastructure
 - Build new paddlers' campsite
 - Incorporate work into Swanton's long-term plans for park

Proposed Work: Take-out

- Install new concrete ramp above dam (~30 ft x 6 ft x 6 in), replacing old degraded asphalt ramp.
- Two options:
 - Option 1: Pour concrete into one large form, create single slab. Slope presents challenges. Maybe possible with contractor, not work NFCT could do.
 - Option 2: Pour series of cast-in-place blocks (6 ft x 18 in x 6 in) like at put-in. NFCT can do this work.
- We propose Option 2. Easier, functional, and we have experience doing the work.
- Signage – dam warning sign, take-out sign, wayfinding signage for portage trail



Proposed Work: Campsite

We seek to establish a formal paddlers' campsite in Ash grove near tennis courts. Proposed infrastructure includes:

- Two 8 ft. x 8 ft. tent pads
- One 6 ft. picnic table
- One seasonal porta potty
- Campsite sign and sign-in box
- Signage – campsite name sign, campsite etiquette sign

Marble Mill Campsite Visualization

Marble Mill
Paddler's
Campsite



Tent Pad #1

Tent Pad #2

Proposed Work: Put-in

- Clear encroaching vegetation from concrete ramp
- Remove debris/obstacles from water access
- Update signage

Timeline

- Work will be completed by NFCT Stewardship Crew during summer 2025, likely during the months of June or July
- Anticipate two days of crew time with 4-person crew

Liability

- The NFCT maintains a \$1,000,000 insurance that provides liability protection for the site construction process.
- Indemnity for land management partners (i.e. Village of Swanton)

Finances/Funding

- Total projected project costs: ~\$3500
 - Can provide detailed budget upon request
- NFCT generally funds our projects through outside sources, primarily third-party grants
 - Lake Champlain Basin Program, State of Vermont, Athletic Brewing, etc.
- We seek to fund this project through LCBP grant
- Project partners often offer match of some sort, often materials or access to machinery/equipment

Project Match Request

We request the Village provide assistance with any/all of the following:

- Site prep for ramp
 - Machinery to tear out old asphalt
 - Provide & spread crushed stone/gravel throughout ramp footprint
- Concrete
 - Can Village provide concrete and send crew to pour it into our forms?
- Porta potty

→ Any sort of match helps us with securing grant funding – grant organizations like to see a match of some sort from project partners. Demonstrates buy-in

Potential Concerns

- Misuse of campsite – how do we monitor it?
 - Parties
 - Homeless encampment
- Vandalism/destruction of property
- Flooding

Final Thoughts/Questions

- Great opportunity for partnership, especially with new plan for park
- Satisfies need for camping facilities along this stretch of river
- Potential to drive local economic activity
- Discussion for future: Foundry Street Access & NFCT Accessibility initiative
 - Potential accessibility project?

→ Questions?